



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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Half Black Journal

By Elvis Bryant

I have devoted my entire career to raising the half blacks and letting the general hobbyist know the finer points about their care.

The red male Delta to a HB red female is one of those crosses that makes a lot of sense. The Red male Delta will lighten a normal dark shade of red, producing a more brilliant red on the HB red males.

In addition the blood line produces an extremely large bodied HB red male show quality to say the least. I would estimate that 90% of all show guppies on the bench today are the results of some type of compatible line cross. This ensures an additional infusion of an outside blood source. Guppies constantly need an infusion to stop their demise in color size.

Here is a little background on how I was able to start this cross. My very good friend, Tom Humphreys made this very same cross and the cross results were fabulous. The HB males were huge and very Colorful, as are all of Tom's guppies. Tom raises the fabulous red Delta that you will see on the show bench. Frank Chang sent me some of his HB reds and I shared some of these with Tom. I crossed my HB red females into the red Deltas.

The results were two Best of Show, one for Second and two for Third Place. Not too shabby. Enough said.

The cross intrigued me to say the least, I just had to try my luck. The cross produced the following results. About 50-75% young fry, the break down is as follows: 25% were HB red males, 25% blonde HB red males, 10% red females and 40% HB red females and to my surprise, no red Delta males. So the HB gene was very dominant in this cross. The red females had a beautiful red, blue and white streaks of color in their caudals. They will show very well in the red females class because they show more than 51% red in their caudals when they mature.

The blonde HB red males are slowly darkening in body color but not to match the normal HB red males. They may in time, but at this writing, not enough to tell what they may develop later. Some I would guess may be dark enough to be in the HB red class, but the body color would not win on body color points.

The balance of fry were HB red females, medium size, and not of show quality for size that is required to compete in that class.

The HB red male is what I was after and the male is what I received. What surprised me the most was the body size. Out of approximately 50 males, I could pick 30-40 that will be a force on the bench in any show. An update on these males will be the subject of another article on their progress.

These guppies eat ravenously, ten times a day if you had the time to feed them. They eat dry foods, frozen beef heart, and, or course, freshly hatched brine shrimp. I stopped feed the live brine shrimp at two months of age, as I didn't feel they were getting enough to help build their bodies like the bulk foods mentioned above. These guppies continued to develop in ways that make you feel like all the detail work that went into this cross was all worth while I would encourage all guppy hobbyists to try different approaches to raising guppies. The adventures are great. The results may not always be rewarding, but if you succeed once, that will encourage you to work harder, dwell deeper into the mysteries of genetics that we know exists in the guppy. I wish you continued success in your guppy creations of a better, more colorful guppy.

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Filtration



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